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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/606,607	06/26/2003	Elizabeth Jane Lawlor	GM10253V-3	6375

7590 04/09/2004

SWANSON & BRATSCHUN, L.L.C.
1745 Shea Center Drive
Suite 330
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

EXAMINER

VOGEL, NANCY S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1636

DATE MAILED: 04/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	10/606,607	
Examiner	Art Unit	
Nancy T. Vogel	1636	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) 1-20 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-20 are pending in the case.

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-8, drawn to an isolated polynucleotide, vectors and host cells, classified in class 536, subclass 27, and class 435, subclasses 320.1 and 252.3.
- II. Claims 9 and 10, drawn to a process for producing a polypeptide comprising expressing a polypeptide from a transformed host, classified in class 435, subclass 70.1.
- III. Claims 11 and 12, drawn to a polypeptide, classified in class 435, subclass 193.
- IV. Claim 13, drawn to an antibody, classified in class 424, subclass 165.1.
- V. Claim 14, drawn to an antagonist which inhibits the activity or expression of a polypeptide, classified in class 536, subclass 23.1.
- VI. Claims 15, 19 and 20, drawn to a method for the treatment of an individual in need of metS polypeptide, or a method for inducing immunological response in a mammal comprising administering the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4, classified in class 514, subclass 12.

- VII. Claim 16, drawn to a method for the treatment of an individual having need to inhibit metS polypeptide comprising administering an antagonist, classified in class 514, subclass 1.
- VIII. Claim 17, drawn to a method of diagnosing a disease related to expression or activity of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NOs 2 or 4, comprising determining a nucleic acid sequence encoding said polypeptide and/or analyzing for the presence or amount of said polypeptide, classified in class 435, subclass 6 and 7.1.
- IX. Claim 18, drawn to a method for identifying compounds which interact with and inhibit or activate an activity of a polypeptide, classified in class 435, subclass 7.1.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions of Group I and II are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the product as claimed can be used as a probe in a hybridization study.

Inventions of Group III and Group VI are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another

materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process, such as in a method of isolating antagonists which block binding to the polypeptide product.

Inventions of Group V and VII are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process, such as a blocker of polypeptide of SEQ ID NOs 2 or 4 activity in an in vitro reaction.

Inventions of Group I and Group VIII are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the product as claimed can be used in another materially different process, such as in a method of making a protein.

Inventions of Group III and Group IX are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially

different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process, such as in a method of treatment comprising administering the polypeptide product to a mammal in order to elicit an immune response.

Inventions of Groups II, VI, VII, VIII, and IX are biologically and functionally different and distinct from each other and thus one does not render the other obvious. The methods of Groups II, VI, VII, VIII, and IX comprise steps which are not required for or present in the methods of the other groups: expressing from a host cell transformed with a vector, a polypeptide (Group II); administering to an individual an amount of polypeptide of SEQ ID NOs 2 or 4 (Group VI); administering an antagonist of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NOs 2 or 4 to an individual (Group VII); determining a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NOs 2 or 4 and/or analyzing for the presence or amount of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NOs 2 or 4 in a sample (Group VIII); contacting a composition comprising the polypeptide of SEQ ID NOs 2 or 4. The end result of the methods are different: the production of a polypeptide of SEQ ID NOs 2 or 4 (Group II); an individual who has been treated with the polypeptide SEQ ID NOs 2 and 4 and who has had an immune response induced (Group VI); an individual who has inhibited metS polypeptide (Group VIII) and the identification of compounds which interact with and inhibit or activate the activity of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NOs 2 or 4 (Group IX). Thus, the operation, function and effects of these different methods are different and distinct from each other. Therefore, the inventions of these different, distinct groups are capable of supporting separate patents.

The products of Groups I, III, IV, and V, are chemically, biologically, and functionally distinct from each other and thus one does not render the other obvious. The product of each group is not needed to produce the products of the other groups (each of which can be isolated from cells or organisms, made synthetically, and/or are self-replicating without the need for the isolated products of the other groups).

Therefore, the inventions of the groups are capable of supporting separate patents.

Except for the specific relationships described above, the invention of Groups I, III, IV and V and Groups II and VI-IX are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP 806.04, MPEP 808.01). In the instant case the different products of Groups I, III, IV, and V are not used in or made by the methods of Groups II and VI-IX.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper. Further more, especially in instances where the classifications are the same, the non-patent literature searches required for each of these inventions are not co-extensive, hence said searches would be burdensome. Therefore, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

The examiner has required restriction between product and process claims. Where applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations

of the allowable product claim will be rejoined in accordance with the provisions of MPEP § 821.04. **Process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the patentable product** will be entered as a matter of right if the amendment is presented prior to final rejection or allowance, whichever is earlier. Amendments submitted after final rejection are governed by 37 CFR 1.116; amendments submitted after allowance are governed by 37 CFR 1.312.

In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be allowable, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103, and 112. Until an elected product claim is found allowable, an otherwise proper restriction requirement between product claims and process claims may be maintained. Withdrawn process claims that are not commensurate in scope with an allowed product claim will not be rejoined. See "Guidance on Treatment of Product and Process Claims in light of *In re Ochiai*, *In re Brouwer* and 35 U.S.C. § 103(b)," 1184 O.G. 86 (March 26, 1996). Additionally, in order to retain the right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, Applicant is advised that the process claims should be amended during prosecution either to maintain dependency on the product claims or to otherwise include the limitations of the product claims. **Failure to do so may result in a loss of the right to rejoinder.**

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Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01.

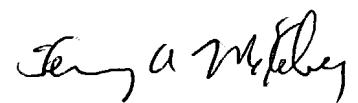
Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nancy T. Vogel whose telephone number is (571) 272-0780. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 - 3:00, Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Irem Yucel, Ph.D. can be reached on (571) 272-0781. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



TERRY MCKELVEY
PRIMARY EXAMINER